

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 183

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION commemorating Vietnam Veterans Day and the 40th anniversary of the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should commemorate those solemn events in our nation's history that recognize the sacrifices made by our veterans on behalf of their fellow Americans; and

WHEREAS, March 30, 2013, marks the 40th anniversary of the initial withdrawal of United States combat troops from Vietnam, foretelling the beginning of the end of the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has always treasured her veterans and their many contributions to our continued liberty, safety, and welfare, and thus it comes as no surprise that the Volunteer State was the first in the union to pass legislation observing Vietnam Veterans Day (March 29th); and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Secretary of Defense has invited Tennessee to serve as a Commemorative Partner in appropriately recognizing and honoring local veterans during the upcoming 50th anniversary of the United State's withdrawal from Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Commemorative Partners Program is to express a special debt of gratitude to every Vietnam Veteran for his or her military service during a turbulent time in our nation's history; and

WHEREAS, the Commemorative Partners Program seeks to ensure that each of our Vietnam Veterans and their families, including former prisoners of war, the unaccounted for, those still missing, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice, is afforded the honor and recognition he or she so richly deserves; and

WHEREAS, while Tennessee prepares to participate in this worthy program, plans for this year's observance of Vietnam Veterans Day are already in place; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2013, Governor Bill Haslam will sign and present a proclamation recognizing Vietnam Veterans Day at the Vietnam Veterans Monument on War Memorial Plaza in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Many-Bears Grinder will be in attendance, as will members of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 240 who will accept the proclamation on behalf of their organization; and

WHEREAS, also on display on War Memorial Plaza during the week of March 25, 2013, will be the Vietnam Veterans Wall that pays tribute to Tennesseans killed during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, as we observe this historically and socially significant anniversary, we should keep our Vietnam Veterans, and especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice, in our hearts and minds and sincerely thank them for their valiant service under difficult conditions; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commemorate Vietnam Veterans Day in Tennessee and the 40th anniversary of the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam on March 30, 1973. We urge all Tennesseans to observe Vietnam Veterans Day at War Memorial Plaza on March 25, 2013, or participate in other appropriate events expressing our gratitude to Vietnam Veterans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.